

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 EURE-00 NEA-10 ACDA-19 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 EA-11 INT-08 FEA-02 DRC-01 /193 W

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P R 181646Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 207

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON 9505

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USIA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 1606

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EEC, US, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S MARCH

15 CHICAGO SPEECH

1. SUMMARY. ALL BELGIAN MEDIA HAVE REPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S CHICAGO SPEECH PROMINENTLY AND NOTED THE REACTIONS TO IT THROUGHOUT EUROPE. PARAS 2-4 BELOW PROVIDE A SAMPLING OF THE FACTUAL COVERAGE. REMAINDER OF THIS MESSAGE REPORTS EDITORIAL COMMENT IN SIX DIFFERENT PAPERS, SOME OF WHICH IS CRITICAL OF EUROPE AND ITS LEADERS (PARAS 5-7) AND SOME OF WHICH DIRECTS ITS CRITICISM AT THE US (PARAS 8-10). END SUMMARY.

2. LARGE CIRCULATION, INDEPENDENT "LE SOIR" HAD LEAD STORY

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UNDER FOUR COLUMN HEADLINE: "MR. NIXON ISSUES A SEVERE

WARNING TO THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE COMMON MARKET: THE PRESIDENT IMPLIES THAT HE WILL NOT ATTEND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE". BEFORE QUOTING PORTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, THE ARTICLE BEGINS AS FOLLOWS: "PRESIDENT NIXON ISSUED ON FRIDAY EVENING IN CHICAGO A SEVERE WARNING TO THE NINE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMON MARKET AND IN FACT IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT GO TO EUROPE NEXT MONTH FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE STATED, BESIDES, THAT IF THERE WERE NO PROGRESS IN TRANS-ATLANTIC CONSULTATIONS BEARING ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS, IT WOULD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO VOTE FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE". "LE SOIR" ALSO REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S WARNING CREATED CONSTERNATION IN LONDON, WHERE FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN WAS MEETING WITH US ENVOYS SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

3. CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" CARRIES INSIDE STORY WITH FOLLOWING LEAD: "PRESIDENT NIXON DECLARED ON FRIDAY, BEFORE BUSINESSMEN GATHERED IN CHICAGO, THAT HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH EUROPEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE THEY WERE 'DISPOSED TO COOPERATE ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FRONTS' WITH THE UNITED STATES. MR. NIXON, WHO THUS VIRTUALLY EXCLUDED THAT HE COULD COME TO EUROPE NEXT MONTH, ADDED THAT 'THE TIME OF ONE-WAY STREETS IS OVER' AND THAT THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE MUST DECIDE NOW WHETHER THEY WILL COOPERATE ON THESE FRONTS OR IF 'WE OUGHT TO GO OUR OWN WAYS'". SAME PAPER REPORTS THAT EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE TRYING TO REMAIN CALM SO AS TO AVOID A "BRUTAL CONFRONTATION" WITH THE US. JOBERT'S AND SCHEEL'S REACTIONS ARE QUOTED IN PART, AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED IN EC CIRCLES AS "INSULTING", "MENACING", "NEGATIVE" AND "HYPOCRITICAL".

4. COVERAGE BY SOCIALIST "LE PEUPLE" DEVOTES SPACE TO COMMENTS BY A RESPONSIBLE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD THOUGHT THROUGH HIS REMARKS CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING THEM AND THAT BOTH HE AND THE SECRETARY WERE DEAD SERIOUS IN THEIR RECENT STATEMENTS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. REPORTING BRIEFLY ON REACTIONS IN BONN, ROME, LONDON, THE HAGUE, AND

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PARIS, "LE PEUPLE" ALSO CITES BRUSSELS SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THE EC-9 ARE CONSULTING AND THAT A MEMBER COUNTRY HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT MAY REPLY PUBLICLY TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. FRONT PAGE OF "LE PEUPLE" FEATURES PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT IN NASHVILLE WITH CAPTION: "AFTER HAVING GIVEN THE EUROPEANS A STRONG DRUBBING, NIXON PLAYS YOYO".

5. EDITORIAL IN MASS-CIRCULATION, LABOR CATHOLIC "HET VOLK"

SAYS THAT, WHILE PEOPLE LIKE WEST GERMAN FONMIN AND "EVEN  
JOBERT USED WISER TONE, PRESS OF THOSE COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO  
ACT INDIGNANTLY. IN EUROPE IT IS FASHIONABLE ALWAYS TO ADOPT  
A SURLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS AMERICA, BUT AT THE SLIGHTEST DANGER  
TO LIE ON ONE'S BELLY IN FRONT OF THE SOVIETS, OF ARABS, OF  
ANYONE. NATIONAL PRIDE OF EUROPE IS RESERVED FOR AMERICANS,  
WHO ARE ALLOWED TO DIE MASSIVELY HERE FOR OUR SECURITY  
BUT WHO MUST NOT ASK ANY SERVICE IN RETURN. THIS IS OF COURSE  
ABOVE ALL TRUE FOR GAULLIST FRANCE, BUT A LOT OF OTHER  
EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, ALAS, LET THEMSELVES BE TAKEN IN TOW  
BY THE FRENCH". PAPER CONTINUES THAT, WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE  
THAT WATERGATE AFFAIR HAS MADE P  
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R 181646Z MAR 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 208  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
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6. EDITORIAL IN IMPORTANT CATHOLIC "GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN" SAYS  
THAT "NIXON'S WARNING TO EUROPE RISKS CONFIRMING SOME OF THE  
SOMBER PREDICTIONS MADE BY FORMER SECRETARY GEORGE BALL (AT  
AMSTERDAM EUROPE-AMERICA CONFERENCE). THIS GREAT AMERICAN  
FRIEND OF EUROPE--HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH JEAN MONNET--SAID  
THAT THE DIVISION OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNPREDICT-  
ABILITY OF EUROPEAN POLICY MIGHT WELL DRIVE NIXON TO A KIND OF  
AMERICAN GAULLISM. ACCORDING TO (FORMER COLLEGE OF EUROPE

RECTOR) PROF. BRUGMANS, 'EUROPE IS AT FREEZING POINT'. THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS. AND NOW RECONCILIATORY SCHEEL IS ATTEMPTING TO GLUE BROKEN PIECES. BUT WHAT IS NEEDED IS NOT SOOTHING WORDS, BUT MEN WITH BACKBONE LIKE SCHMIDT. FOR OTHERWISE, PROSPECTS FOR BOTH EUROPE AND ATLANTIC COOPERATION WILL BE SOMBER".

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7. LIBERAL (CONSERVATIVE) "LA DERNIERE HEURE", IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, SAYS THE FOLLOWING: "UNITY AND DEFENSE OF THE FREE WORLD ARE NECESSARY FOR EVERYONE, AS MUCH FOR THE US AS FOR EUROPE. BUT IT IS TOO EASY TO SAY: 'LET US DO WHAT WE WANT; IN ANY CASE, AMERICANS WILL BE FORCED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY TO COME TO EUROPE'S RESCUE.' IN SPITE OF WHAT MR. JOBERT MAY THINK, ISN'T SUCH AN ATTITUDE ONE THAT LACKS DIGNITY? OF COURSE, ONE SHOULDN'T LET ANYONE TREAD ON ONE'S TOES, AND EVERYONE'S INTERESTS MUST BE FAIRLY RESPECTED. BUT ONE MUST BE REALISTIC: EUROPE ALONE IS TOTALLY UNABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE TRUTH IS THAT ONE MUST ALWAYS HAVE THE MEANS OF (CARRYING OUT) ONE'S POLICY, AND IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO RESORT TO THE USE OF BLACKMAIL BY THREATENING TO BREAK OFF FROM THE ALLIANCE. TO JOBERT'S SCRATCHES, NIXON ANSWERED WITH A BIG PAW."

8. INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" WRITES: "ONE CANNOT BUT THINK THAT NIXON, WITH A TOUCH OF NAIVETE, IS FINALLY PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF FRANCE AND THOSE WHO INCREASINGLY WANT EUROPE TO BE A MORE AUTONOMOUS, IF NOT COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT FROM ONE WHO, AGAIN WITH SOME NAIVETE, DOES NOT FEAR TO LOUDLY CLAIM LEADERSHIP OF WHOLE WORLD. ONE CANNOT BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MR. NIXON, BY CAUSING SHOCKS AMONG ATLANTIC ALLIES, DOES NOT EXACTLY REINFORCE THIS ALLIANCE WHICH, MOST SURELY, SHOULD KEEP EUROPE IN THE ATLANTIC ORBIT. MR. KISSINGER SAID RECENTLY THAT HE HAD DONE MORE FOR EUROPE IN ONE WEEK THAN MR. MONNET HAD DURING HIS WHOLE CAREER. IF MR. NIXON DECIDES TO CONTINUE THAT POLICY, HE WILL ALSO BECOME A GREAT "EUROPEAN". THE VERY MODERATE REACTION OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S OVERLY STRONG STATEMENTS CAN RESTORE CALM. BUT MR. NIXON CANNOT CONTINUE FOREVER IN THE SAME TONE."

9. LABOR CATHOLIC "LA CITE" WRITES: "CAPITAL OF GANGSTERISM IN INNUMERABLE FILMS AND NOVELS, CHICAGO'S IMAGE WILL NOT BE IMPROVED BY THE INCREDIBLY BRUTAL SPEECH MADE THERE BY MR. NIXON FRIDAY NIGHT. AND THE DEPLORABLE OPINION WHICH THE ENTIRE WORLD IS FORCED TO HAVE OF THE US PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL MORALITY IS STILL WORSENING. AFTER (MR. KISSINGER'S) EXCESSIVE WORDS, WHICH SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED HIS REPUTATION AS THE

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'DIPLOMAT OF THE CENTURY', THE CAMPAIGN OF VERBAL AGGRESSION AGAINST EUROPE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO A CULMINATING POINT BY A PRESIDENT WHO OPENLY MADE WHAT MUST BE TERMED BLACKMAIL. THE POLITICAL BLACKMAIL OF MR. NIXON IS PRIMARILY AIMED AT THE FRG, WHICH MUST BE DIVERTED BY THE FEAR OF DIMINISHED SECURITY FROM THE ARAB POLICY OUTLINED BY THE NINE." IN CONCLUSION, PAPER WRITES: "WE MUST SAVE IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER THE NECESSARY SOLIDARITY OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES AND AT THE SAME TIME REFUSE HUMILIATING AND DANGEROUS SUBORDINATION. IT IS POSSIBLE IF ONE RESUMES REAL DIPLOMACH. ALAS, THEY SEEM TO BE BENT ON THE OPPOSITE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC."

10. CATHOLIC "DE NIEUWE GIDS" COMMENTS: "SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS. I CAN HANDLE MY ENEMIES MYSELF. THIS IS APPARENTLY THE CONCLUSION NIXON AND KISSINGER HAVE REACHED, FOR THE PRESIDENT PRAISED DETENTE WITH THE SOVIETS AND SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR TALKS WITH THE COM  
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## Message Attributes

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